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AGRICULTURE PROFILE

VERNON DISTRICT

Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Agriculture and Food

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BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL REPORTING REGIONS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This series of agricultural profiles was produced by the Policy Development and Economics Division, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The report is descriptive, and includes statistical information from a variety of sources. It is designed primarily as an information base for use by Ministry of Agriculture and Food staff in district goal identification and program planning.

The authors acknowledge with gratitude the assistance and co-operation received from individuals and organizations both public and private during the preparation of this report.

This report is one of a series covering the eighteen District Agriculturists' Office Areas of British Columbia.

Abbotsford
Chilliwack
Cloverdale
Courtenay
Cranbrook
Creston
Dawson Creek
Duncan
Fort St. John
Kamloops
Oliver
Prince George
Quesnel
Salmon Arm
Smithers
Vanderhoof
Vernon
Williams Lake

AGRICULTURAL PROFILE - VERNON DISTRICT

PREFACE

BACKGROUND

The British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food has divided the Province into eighteen agricultural districts, each served by a District Agriculturist. Profiles of these districts were first developed in 1980 under the Canada-British Columbia Agriculture and Rural Development Subsidiary Agreement (A.R.D.S.A).

The availability of new data from the 1981 Census of Agriculture resulted in a need for major revision. The present profile is an updated version reflecting the Census information. At the same time, the profiles have been expanded to include information not previously available, and many of the tables have been restructured to show a more detailed breakdown of different variables by farm sales.

CAVEAT

As the agricultural districts were designed to meet the needs of the farming community, and as their boundaries were developed to ensure efficient use of the District Agriculturist's time, the boundaries do not necessarily coincide with those of the Census Divisions or Subdivisions. However, statistical data from the Census of Agriculture is currently only available for Census Divisions and Subdivisions. An attempt was made, both in the original profiles and in these updates, to choose census divisions and subdivisions which most closely represent the agricultural districts. In this profile all references to the Vernon District are to the area covered by census divisions 37-North Okanagan sub B and 35-Central Okanagan.

STRUCTURE

The profiles have been designed to provide a comprehensive source of statistical information on each agricultural district. They have been divided into three sections: an overview of the district, a description of the farms and farmers of the district, and a description of the farm products of the district.

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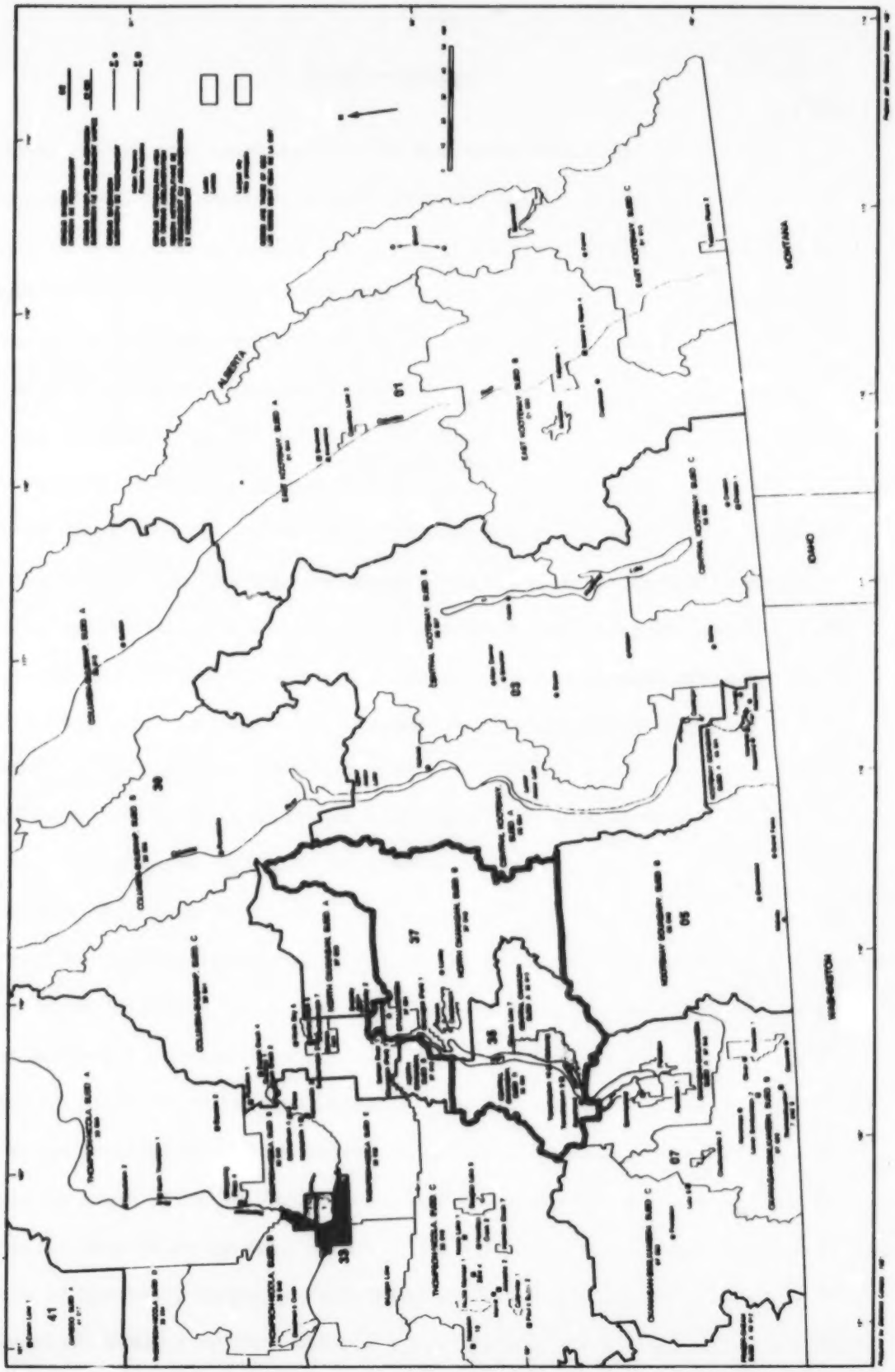
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT



OVERVIEW: VERNON DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

The Oliver Agricultural District occupies 1 million hectares in the Okanagan Kootenay Agricultural Reporting Region, and has typical interior plateau terrain consisting of level to rolling plain.

Census figures indicate a 1981 population of 131,815, an increase of 22.3 percent over 1976 levels. The urban/rural distribution has shifted over the last few years, the urban population now accounts for 59.8 percent of the total population up from 55 percent in 1976. Total experienced labour force totals 62,475, with the majority employed in the personal services, trade, manufacturing, and construction sectors.

Agricultural activity in the district is centered around horticulture and beef production. In 1981, fruit and vegetable production was the primary activity of 46 percent of farms, beef, assorted field crops and miscellaneous specialty accounted for 20, 8, and 7 percent respectively. Fruit and vegetable production was the primary activity of 53 percent of holdings with sales greater than $50,000 in 1981. Farm cash receipts totalled $79 million in 1981, 8.8 percent of the provincial total. Tree fruit, dairy and hogs accounted for 30, 9 and 8 percent of receipts respectively.

The Vernon District accounts for 77,155 hectares in agricultural holdings, approximately 3.5 percent of the provincial total. The total number of farms enumerated in 1981 was 2,308. Farms are smaller than the provincial average in Vernon where 88 percent of holdings are less than 53 hectares. Average farm size is 33 hectares compared to 109 hectares for the province as a whole. In 1981, 53 percent of farmland was classified as improved compared with 43.4 percent for the province.

The trend toward escalating land prices has led to increased intensification in the district. High prices have led to fragmentation of the agricultural land base which in turn decreases economic viability, particularly with respect to crop production. More efficient use of small crop producing units may be achieved through intensive egg, broiler or hog production. However, quota control in dairy, egg and broiler production virtually prohibit entry. Shortage of vegetable processing facilities tends to discourage increased vegetable production. Increased irrigation is probably the greatest opportunity for agricultural expansion in the Vernon District, especially in the Spallumcheen Municipality.

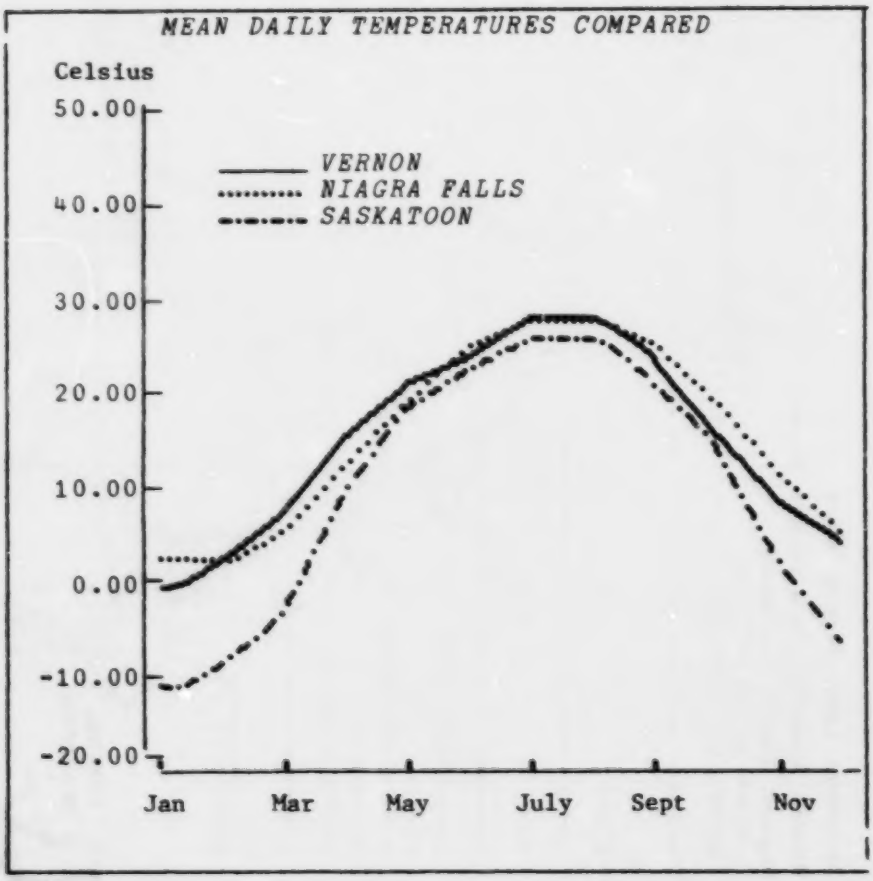
TABLE 1

CLIMATIC DATA

VERNON/NIAGARA FALLS/SASKATOON COMPARED

	VERNON	NIAGARA FALLS	SASKATOON
Growing Degree Days	2,010.7	2,472.7	1,619.9
Frost Free Period	175	172	117
Total Precipitation	347.7	942.3	348.8

Source: Canadian Climate Normals 1951-1980
Temperature and Precipitation Normals 1951-1980
Environment Canada



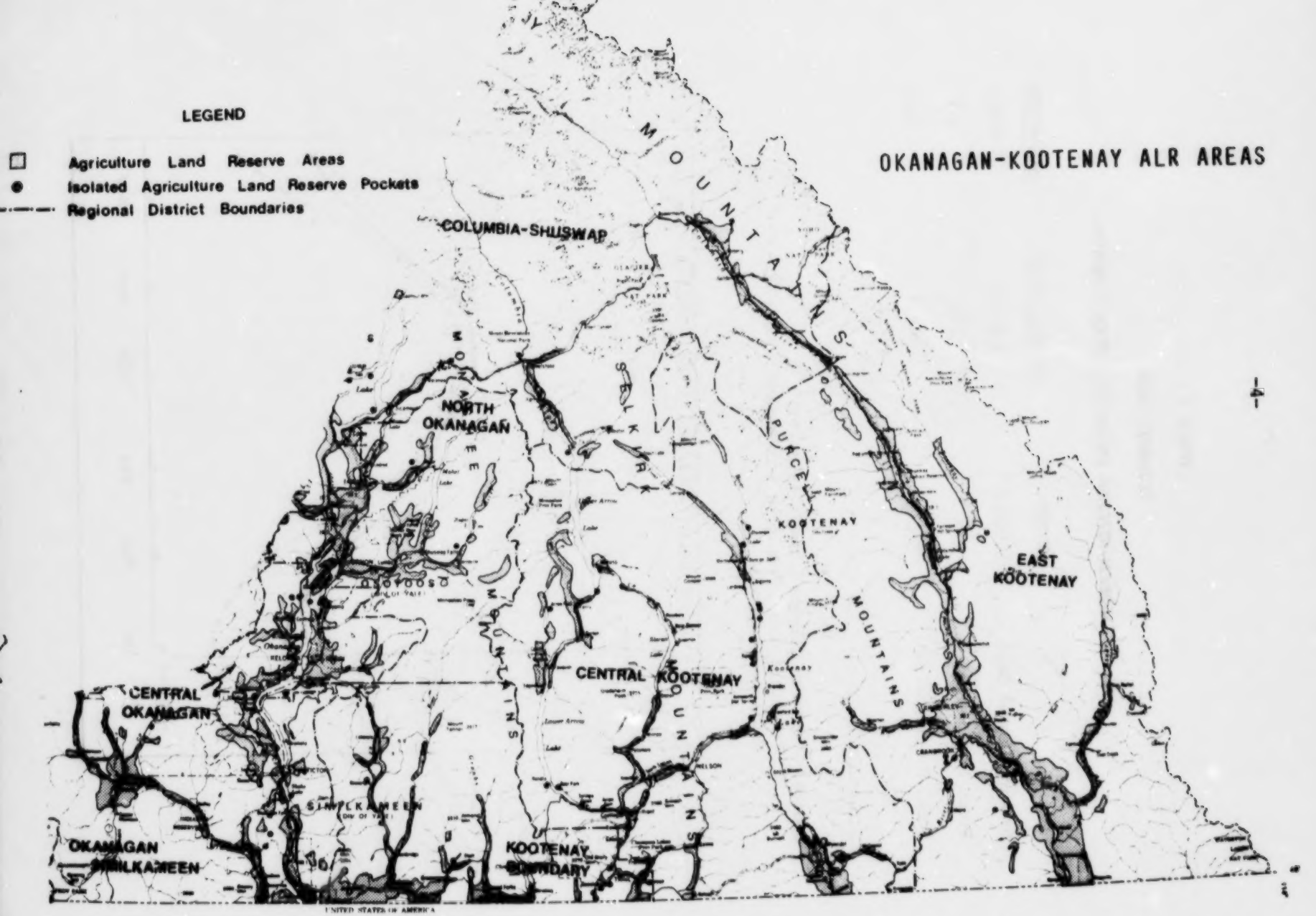

LEGEND
Agriculture Land Reserve Areas
Isolated Agriculture Land Reserve Pockets
Regional District Boundaries
OKANAGAN-KOOTENAY ALR AREAS
COLUMBIA-SHUSWAP
NORTH OKANAGAN
CENTRAL OKANAGAN
OKANAGAN SIMILKAMEEN
CENTRAL KOOTENAY
KOOTENAY BOUNDARY
KOOTENAY
EAST KOOTENAY
MOUNTAINS
PURCELL
SELKIRK
SIMILKAMEEN
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TABLE 2
OKANAGAN REGION
AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE AREAS IN HECTARES
SUMMARY TABLE: LAND CAPABILITY CLASS BY PRESENT LAND USE

Present Land Use

	1	2	3	4	1-4	5	6	7	Water	Total	%Total
Forages and Grains	2,590	13,410	12,480	8,950	37,430	2,940	1,580	220	0	42,170	25
Horticulture	860	1,940	1,690	130	4,620	30	220	10	0	4,880	3
Grassland and Pasture	380	2,380	5,430	9,250	17,440	4,400	4,360	350	0	26,550	16
Forest	150	5,260	12,770	31,890	50,070	21,240	10,910	6,180	0	88,400	52
Non-Productive Lands	80	520	790	840	2,230	670	830	230	4,380	8,340	5
Total	4,060	23,510	33,160	51,060	111,790	29,280	17,900	6,990	4,380	170,340	
% Total	2	14	19	30	66	17	10	4	3		

Source: B.C. Land Inventory Report, Vol. 1, 2
Tallsman Project Inc., 1980.

OKANAGAN LAND CAPABILITY

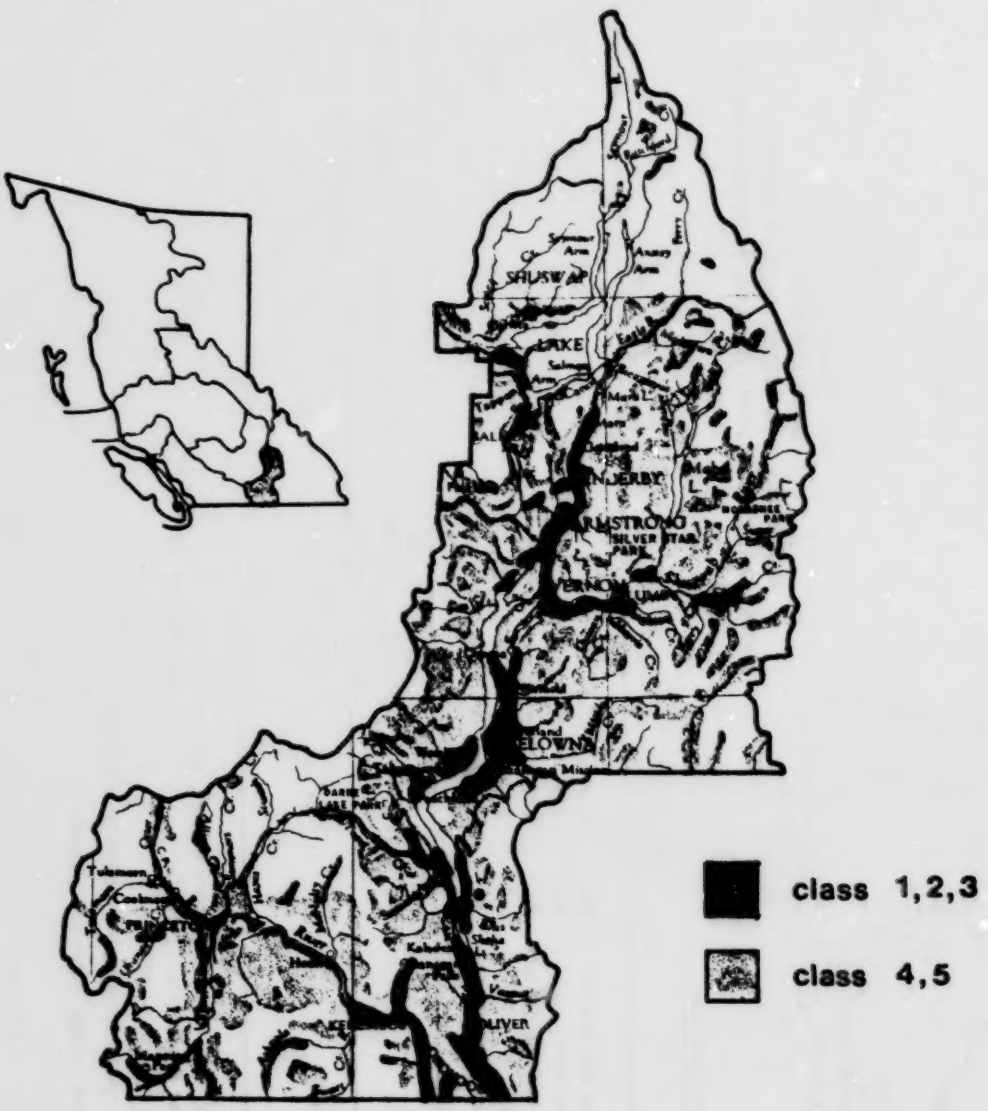


TABLE 3

OKANAGAN REGION

AGRICULTURE LAND CAPABILITY

Class	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Water Surface	Other*	Total
Hectares ('000s):										
Unimproved	3,209	43,176	93,116	189,730	1,005,969	1,585,079	3,628,992	224,602	19,461	6,793,334
Improved**	28,597	115,310	130,439	250,551	817,671	1,581,293	3,625,410	224,602	19,461	6,793,334
Percent:										
Unimproved	0.05	0.64	1.37	2.79	14.80	23.33	53.42	3.31	0.29	100.0
Improved**	0.42	1.69	1.92	3.68	12.04	23.28	53.37	3.31	0.29	100.0

*Other includes unclassified urban areas, national parks and unmapped portions of the district.
**Rating if land unit were irrigated and/or drained.

Source: Agriculture Land Capacity in British Columbia, ARDA Project #89077, 1976.

TABLE 4
OKANAGAN* REGION
AGRICULTURE AND GRAZING LEASE DATA IN HECTARES

Lease Type: Grazing

Year	No. of Leases	Area
1983	15	1,402.97
1982	0	-
1981	10	666.7
1980	12	677.6
1980-1983	37	2,747.27
TOTAL	157	26,971.05

Lease Type: Extensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	2	82.91
1981	4	585.03
1980	6	185.75
1980-1983	12	853.69
TOTAL	24	1,632.03

Lease Type: Intensive Agriculture

1983	0	-
1982	1	2.20
1981	2	10.81
1980	2	20.58
1980-1983	5	33.59
TOTAL	9	60.41

Total lease area: 1980-1983: 3,634.55
Total lease area: 28,663.49

*Note: These figures include the Kamloops and Kelowna Regional Districts as defined by the Ministry of Land, Parks and Housing which encompass most of the Salmon Arm, Vernon and Oliver District Office areas as classified by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

Source: B.C. Crown Land: Range and Cultivated Land Inventory, B.C.M.A. 1984

TABLE 5

USE OF LAND BY FARM SALES CLASS VERNON, 1981-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
Total Area of Farms	4,868	3,045	6,946	6,632	24,114	31,551	77,156
Total Improved Land Area	2,539	1,685	3,182	3,669	12,115	17,366	40,555
Total Area Under Crop	1,584	981	1,927	2,213	7,688	11,211	25,604
Number of Farms Reporting	184	105	154	116	133	99	791
Area of Improved Pasture	580	357	779	1,165	3,370	5,317	11,567
Number of Farms Reporting	184	105	154	116	133	99	791
Area in Summer Fallow	73	57	216	99	343	297	1,085
Number of Farms Reporting	29	26	25	24	28	28	160
Other Improved Land Area	302	290	260	192	714	541	2,299
Number of Farms Reporting	314	192	228	171	268	189	1,362
Total Unimproved Land Area	2,334	1,364	3,770	2,966	12,006	14,184	36,624
Woodland Area	1,066	524	1,015	1,150	2,117	3,819	9,691
Number of Farms Reporting	56	35	47	45	64	47	294
Other Unimproved Land Area	1,268	840	2,755	1,816	9,889	10,366	26,934
Number of Farms Reporting	155	76	116	97	177	136	757

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture
December 1983

TABLE 6

VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT:

NUMBER OF FARMS BY FARM SALES CLASS

SALES	$-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10,000+
1971	1,014	242	254	436
1976	1,148	281	262	539
1981	794	363	292	859

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 7

VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY PRODUCT TYPE AND SALES -1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Dairy	5	3	4	8	11	33	64
Cattle	83	75	104	69	79	40	450
Hogs	6	4	3	10	15	24	62
Poultry	54	34	26	13	11	7	145
Wheat	3	2	4	6	14	7	36
Small Grains	19	3	8	4	12	4	50
Other Field Crops	83	39	37	19	7	3	188
Fruits and Vegetables	183	94	133	131	361	165	1,067
Miscellaneous Specialty	35	19	25	21	27	22	149
Livestock Combination	12	12	11	7	6	4	52
Other Combinations	23	3	8	4	5	2	45
TOTAL	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 8

VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY SIZE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
1-2 Acres	62	13	8	6	5	1	95
3-9 Acres	231	129	152	95	96	7	710
10-69 Acres	181	123	151	124	330	157	1,066
70-129 Acres	17	10	25	22	34	46	54
130-179 Acres	7	7	7	23	17	24	85
180-239 Acres	2	2	3	6	16	11	40
240-399 Acres	1	2	7	9	24	24	67
400-559 Acres	2	-	5	6	5	14	32
560-759 Acres	1	2	3	1	9	7	23
760-1119 Acres	2	-	2	-	3	7	14
1120-1599 Acres	-	-	-	-	4	5	9
1600 Acres and Over	-	-	-	-	5	8	13
TOTAL	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

VERNON: AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE BASE

Farm Taxfiler's Income

The district has a relatively high proportion of low income operations. In 1981, 63 percent of farms had sales less than $10,000 compared to 60 percent for B.C. as a whole. Average gross farm income reported was $25,700 in 1981 compared to $39,959 provincially. Almost all taxfilers in the Vernon District reported some off farm income, with 57 percent reporting wages and salaries.

Agricultural Employment

Over 31 percent of reported days off farm work included non agricultural labour, approximately 78 percent of off farm work was reported from holdings with sales less than $10,000. Farm operators hired an average 24 weeks of farm labour, compared with 24 weeks for the province as a whole. In 1981, farms with sales greater than $50,000 provided 71 percent of agricultural employment.

Agricultural Land Development Act

The 1981 census reported 78 more farm units than in 1976 in the Vernon District. Irrigation has accounted for over 80 percent of A.L.D.A. expenditures over the last few years. Approximately 4 percent of funds are allocated to orchards and vineyards and 10 percent for land clearing, which has totalled 391 hectares since 1973. Operators report using 5,691 tonnes of fertilizer on 16,295 hectares of agricultural land in 1981.

Farm Capital

The total nominal value of farm capital has increased from $397 million in 1976 to $930 million in 1981. The per farm average rose from $185,000 to $403,000 over the same period. The proportion of investment in land and buildings, machinery and livestock has remained relatively constant since 1976. In 1981, total farm capital per hectare was $12,050, about three times the provincial average.

Age of Operators

The age distribution of farmers remained relatively constant over the period 1976-81 with the largest increase in the 35-44 age group, the total number of farmers did not change appreciably during this period and now represents 11.5 percent of the provincial total.

TABLE 9

VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

FARMS CLASSIFIED BY CAPITAL VALUE AND SALES-1981 CENSUS

Capital Value	Sales $250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Less Than $10,000	2	-	-	-	2
$10,000-24,999	7	3	-	-	10
$25,000-49,999	14	11	2	1	28
$50,000-99,999	109	38	9	2	158
$100,000-199,999	339	180	71	8	598
$200,000-499,999	292	352	312	69	1,025
$500,000 AND OVER	31	71	154	231	487
TOTAL	794	655	548	311	2,308

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 10

TOTAL FARM CAPITAL BY FARM SALES, 1981: VERNON DISTRICT

	SALES				
	$250-2499	$2500-9999	$10000-49999	$50000+	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	794	655	548	311	2,308
TOTAL CAPITAL VALUE	164,400,784	193,548,285	245,144,667	326,658,307	929,752,043
VALUE OF LAND & BUILDINGS	153,188,291	178,296,506	222,861,292	290,776,550	845,122,639
VALUE OF MACHINERY	9,066,075	12,271,467	16,935,630	21,845,486	60,118,661
VALUE OF LIVESTOCK-POULTRY	2,146,415	2,980,312	5,347,745	14,036,271	24,510,743
AVERAGE CAPITAL VALUE	207,054	295,494	447,344	1,050,348	402,839
RATIO OF CAPITAL VALUE TO MIDDLE VALUE OF FARM SALES CLASS	151	47	15	6	

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE II

1983 SALES OF FARMS-OKANAGAN KOOTENAY REGION

Area Name	No. Pcls.	Hectares	Sale Price $000s	Value of Improvements	Residual Value	Actual Value	Assessment Sales Ratio	Mkt Value $/Hectare
Penticton	45	660	6,532	$909,600	$5,621,848	$1,075,309	0.191	8,513
Trail	14	1,567	2,179	278,000	1,901,438	1,027,068	0.54	1,213
Kelowna	33	540	6,967	1,040,000	5,926,567	590,580	0.0996	10,972
Vernon	61	1,186	9,974	1,708,500	8,265,750	2,290,223	0.277	6,978
Nelson	7	131	1,065	88,500	976,480	432,240	0.443	7,480
East Kootenay	17	796	2,101	522,800	1,577,945	250,438	0.158	19,942

Source: B.C. Assessment Authority.

TABLE 12

AVERAGE AGE OF FARMERS: VERNON DISTRICT

	1976	1981	CHANGE
Under 25	28	28	-
25 - 34	246	263	+17
35 - 44	547	594	+47
45 - 54	637	643	+6
55 - 59	252	285	+33
60- 64	214	216	+2
65 - 69	157	131	-26
70 & Over	148	148	-
TOTAL	2,230	2,308	+78
TOTAL PERCENT OF B.C.	11.5	11.5	

Note: These figures include the North Okanagan sub. B and Central Okanagan census divisions.

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 13
OKANAGAN REGION
FARM TAXFILER'S INCOME 1980.

	# of Farm Taxfilers	Average Gross Farm Income $'000s	Total Gross Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Farm Net Income	Average Net Farm Income $'000s	Total Net Farm Income $'000s	# Reporting Wages & Salaries	Average Wage & Salary $'000s	# Reporting Off Farm Income	Average Off Farm Income $'000s	Total Off Farm Income $'000s	Average Income All Sources $'000s	Total Income All Sources $'000s
Central Okanagan	520	16.1	8,391.2	511	0.79	394.2	280	8.9	506	16.0	8,338.7	16.8	8,732.9
Kelowna	1,200	27.8	33,284.4	1,188	2.90	3,477.6	586	8.6	1,181	18.4	22,087.2	21.3	25,564.8
North Okanagan	795	36.8	29,264.0	778	(0.90)	(712.3)	368	7.6	769	13.5	10,724.6	12.6	10,012.2
Vernon	710	25.7	18,267.6	700	(1.24)	(879.0)	406	10.5	700	18.6	13,230.1	17.4	12,351.2
Columbia Shuswap	660	35.0	23,122.4	644	(0.71)	470.6	361	10.0	642	15.6	10,308.5	16.3	10,779.1
Penticton	460	27.0	12,413.1	456	2.12	976.1	221	7.6	451	15.4	7,066.1	17.5	8,042.2
Okanagan Similk.	1,875	25.3	47,411.3	1,846	2.78	521.3	849	5.6	1,819	10.7	19,970.6	13.4	25,186.9
Trail/ Rossland	35	50.0	1,751.2	35	2.03	71.2	23	14.2	35	26.7	935.3	28.8	1,006.5
Kootenay Boundary	330	20.4	6,738.6	322	(0.79)	(259.4)	180	9.2	317	13.2	4,365.9	12.5	4,106.5
Okanagan	6,585	27.4	180,643.7	6,480	1.33	8,755.2	3,274		6,420	14.7	97,027.0	16.1	105,782.2

Source: Revenue Canada.

TABLE 14

OFF-FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY TYPE OF WORK & FARM SALES, 1981: VERNON

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
DAYS OF OFF-FARM WORK	54,533	37,593	47,124	33,042	42,050	7,527	221,869
FARMS REPORTING	260	181	235	185	253	59	1,173
AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	5,043	3,181	2,405	2,368	4,433	2,304	19,734
FARMS REPORTING	33	21	29	27	48	21	179
NON-AGRICULTURAL OFF-FARM WORK	49,490	34,412	44,719	30,674	37,617	5,223	202,135
FARMS REPORTING	237	165	220	167	218	42	1,049

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 15
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
OFF FARM WORK BY FARM OPERATORS BY NUMBER OF DAYS AND FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,000	$50,000+	Total
1-6 Days	3	3	3	6	3	3	21
7-12	3	1	4	4	6	2	20
13-24	4	3	5	6	8	7	33
25-48	6	7	3	9	18	8	51
49-72	8	8	16	10	11	6	59
73-96	5	4	5	7	15	6	42
97-126	16	8	12	15	34	4	89
127-156	11	5	18	8	22	3	67
157-228	70	53	58	61	56	7	305
229-365	134	89	111	59	80	13	486
Total	260	181	235	185	253	59	1,173

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 16

HIRED AGRICULTURAL LABOUR BY FARM SALES, 1981: VERNON

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
NUMBER OF FARMS	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
TOTAL WEEKS OF HIRED LABOUR	372	317	1,295	1,613	12,085	39,184	54,860
FARMS REPORTING	69	59	127	132	427	282	1,096
WEEKS OF YEAR-ROUND LABOUR	137	45	236	365	1,994	14,851	17,628
FARMS REPORTING	9	6	12	17	54	127	225
WEEKS OF SEASONAL LABOUR	235	272	1,059	1,248	10,091	24,333	37,238
FARMS REPORTING	60	54	117	116	396	245	988

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 17

AGRICULTURE LAND DEVELOPMENT ACT WORK DONE, 1973 - 1981: VERNON DISTRICT OFFICE AREA

	CLEARED			BROKEN			IRRIGATION	DRAINAGE	ORCHARD AND VINEYARD	OTHER	TOTAL
Fiscal Year	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Hectares	Cost/ Hectare $	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	Cost $'000	$000s	Cost $'000	$'000
1973/74	34	302	10	-	-	-	23	-	-	-	33
1974/75	231	227	52	10	36	0.4	114	-	-	9	176
1975/76	126	335	30	59	102	6	78	8	16	2	140
1976/77	67	315	21	-	-	-	125	1	3	4	154
1977/78	15	323	5	1	346	0.4	183	-	23	15	227
1978/79	90	304	27	23	109	3	198	2	30	4	264
1979/80	103	344	35	20	100	2	332	2	10	20	401
1980/81	178	331	59	14	429	6	414	-		4	483
1981/82	47	553	26	14	143	2	719	12	21	41	823

SOURCE: British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture and Food, A.L.D.A. Branch Records

TABLE 18

SPRAYING, DUSTING AND IRRIGATION, 1981: VERNON

Spraying and Dusting (any)	349
Weed Control (Hec.)	4,102
Farms Reporting	232
For Insect Control (Hec.)	679
Farms Reporting	180
Irrigation - Total Area (Hec.)	7,040
Farms Reporting	556
Sprinkler System - Total Area (Hec.)	6,675
Farms Reporting	527

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

TABLE 19

FERTILIZER USE, 1981: VERNON

Total Area (hectares)	16,295
Tonnes	5,691
No. Reports of Any Use	1,320
Total Cropland (Hec.)	11,657
Tonnes	4,506
Farms Reporting	1,094
Total Tame Hay (Hec.)	3,247
Tonnes	748
Farms Reporting	244
Total Improved Pasture (Hec.)	1,392
Tonnes	437
Farms Reporting	204

SOURCE: Census of Agriculture, 1981

VERNON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Tree Fruit

Tree fruit production was valued at $24 million in 1981, 45 percent of the provincial crop including one half of total pear cultivation and more than 50 percent of total apple cultivation. The district has over 5,000 hectares under tree fruit cultivation, 86 percent of which is concentrated among holdings with sales in excess of $10,000. Apple cultivation accounts for more than 79 percent of tree fruit area, the highest concentration of the 1.4 million trees is in the $50,000+ sales class. Pear, cherry and peach cultivation account for 8, 6 and 2 percent respectively of tree fruit area.

Small Fruit/Vegetables

Small fruit production, mainly grapes and strawberries were valued at $4.6 million in 1981, nearly 12 percent of the provincial total. Most of the acreage planted in small fruits is concentrated in higher sales class holdings. Grape cultivation accounts for over 95 percent of small fruit acreage. Field vegetable receipts totalled $1.5 million in 1981. Although the Vernon District accounts for only 4.7 percent of provincial vegetable area it produces 60 of the B.C. asparagus crop. Floriculture/nursery is also of major importance, 1981 receipts were valued at $7.5 million, over 14 percent of the provincial crop. Hothouse vegetables totalled just under $400,00 in 1981, 47 holdings reported greenhouse operations in 1981.

Livestock and Related Products

Sales of livestock and products for 1981 were valued at $22.2 million or 28 percent of total farm cash receipts. Hogs accounted for $6 million of this total or 12 percent of provincial pork sales. Total cattle herd size increased by 7 percent to 34,500 head over the period 1976-81. The main trend in the cattle industry is towards numerous small operations of 50 to 100 head of cattle rather than large feeding operations. Finishing operations are limited by a lack of fodder facilities, with most backgrounded cattle sold out of the area for finishing. Hog production has shown significant expansion for several consecutive years, with the hog population increasing 9 fold to 30,000 in 1981.

The 1981 census recorded 306,000 chickens, up nearly 300 percent from 78,000 in 1976. Over 49 percent of this population is concentrated in the $50,000+ sales class, 37 percent is on holdings with sales less than $2,500 indicating a large number of smaller operations in this industry. Sheep production is relatively small with only 2,800 head, however the sheep population has increased 3 fold since 1976.

TABLE 20

ESTIMATE OF FARM CASH RECEIPTS, 1981

VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

COMMODITY	FARM CASH RECEIPTS $'000	PERCENTAGE	PERCENTAGE OF B.C. OUTPUT
Wheat	606.00	0.77	6.87
Oats	55.49	0.07	1.91
Barley	157.29	0.20	1.91
Canola	10.67	0.01	0.52
Potatoes	143.89	0.18	0.78
Small Fruits	4,547.16	5.75	11.92
Field Vegetables	1,359.39	1.72	4.66
Floriculture/Nursery	7,476.53	9.46	14.60
Forest Prod.	111.09	0.14	4.75
Cattle & Calves	5,050.97	6.39	4.11
Income Ins.	734.62	0.93	
Hogs	6,102.82	7.72	11.75
Income Ins.	11.05	0.01	
Sheep	111.09	0.14	4.21
Income Ins.	6.53	0.01	
Poultry & Eggs	4,136.47	5.23	3.07
Income Ins.	1.53	0.00	
Dairy Products	6,815.35	8.62	3.14
C.D.C. Subsidy	272.11	0.34	
Honey	435.14	0.55	8.53
Tree Fruit	24,025.40	30.40	44.51
Income Ins.	10,265.80	12.99	
Hothouse	399.66	0.51	1.38
Income Ins.	14.03	0.02	
Other	6,181.98	7.82	9.04
TOTAL	79,032.10		

SOURCE: Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 1983.

TABLE 21

AREA IN FIELD CROPS BY FARM SALES, 1981: VERNON-IN HECTARES

	$250-1599	$1600-2499	$2500-4999	$5000-9999	$10000-49999	$50000 OR MORE	TOTAL
Number of Farms	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
Flaxseed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canola	-	43	-	-	65	24	132
Farms Reporting	-	1	-	-	1	1	3
Tame Hay - Total	1,097	679	1,145	1,342	3,156	4,512	11,930
Farms Reporting	243	156	182	123	149	122	975
Alfalfa and Mixtures	830	576	994	1,108	2,556	3,823	9,887
Farms Reporting	201	136	165	108	131	112	853
Other Tame Hay	266	104	151	234	599	689	2,043
Farms Reporting	60	28	34	32	43	30	227
Oats for Fodder	57	41	72	83	187	233	672
Farms Reporting	23	20	18	13	32	25	131
Other Fodder Crops	34	14	7.3	3.2	296	243	598
Farms Reporting	4	3	3	1	5	5	21

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 22

VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT

AREA OF VEGETABLES ON FARMS, IN HECTARES- 1981 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
Vegetables	22	18	42	39	121	125	367
Farms Reporting	42	29	29	28	32	12	172
Asparagus	12	4.8	26	10	15	81	148
Farms Reporting	10	5	9	5	5	5	39
Beans	0.12	0.53	0.32	0.24	0.81	0.08	2.10
Farms Reporting	3	9	2	3	4	2	23
Beets	0.04	0.45	0.61	0.41	0.61	0.28	2.40
Farms Reporting	1	6	4	3	4	3	21
Broccoli	0.04	0.12	0.24	0.97	0.41	0.24	2.00
Farms Reporting	1	3	2	3	3	2	14
Cabbage	0.32	0.24	0.69	0.61	1.4	1.5	4.8
Farms Reporting	3	5	5	3	7	3	26
Carrots	0.08	0.69	0.81	0.85	0.93	0.45	3.8
Farms Reporting	2	8	5	5	8	2	30
Cauliflower	0.04	0.24	0.32	1.4	1.3	1.5	4.8
Farms Reporting	1	5	2	3	4	3	18
Cucumbers	1.1	0.77	1.8	1.4	2.9	1.1	9.0
Farms Reporting	8	12	9	10	10	4	53
Green Peas	0.49	0.20	0.57	0.41	32.7	-	34
Farms Reporting	3	4	4	3	4	-	18
Lettuce	0.04	0.16	0.16	0.20	0.32	0.81	1.70
Farms Reporting	1	3	2	2	3	1	12
Onions (Dry)	1.1	0.61	0.20	5.1	3.4	8.9	19
Farms Reporting	4	6	3	7	6	4	30
Rutabagas	-	-	-	-	1.4	-	1.4
Farms Reporting	-	-	-	-	2	-	2
Sweet Corn	4.8	7.2	3.5	6.3	11	9.3	42
Farms Reporting	19	18	12	13	17	4	83
Tomatoes	0.61	1.1	5.8	4.5	8.9	14	35
Farms Reporting	6	11	12	10	14	4	57
Other Vegetables	1.5	1.3	1.6	6.4	41	5.1	57
Farms Reporting	12	7	5	10	17	4	55

TABLE 23
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SMALL FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
Small Fruits	51	13	23	27	171	380	665
Farms Reporting	35	25	28	26	61	41	216
Strawberries	6.3	4.1	2.7	0.65	8.3	0.41	22
Farms Reporting	15	11	10	3	10	1	50
Grapes	43	7.6	18	25	161	380	634
Farms Reporting	18	10	15	20	49	40	152
Other Berries	1.8	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.9	-	8.6
Farms Reporting	8	7	9	5	7	-	36

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 24
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN TREE FRUITS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	250-1,599	$1,600-2,499	$2,500-4,999	$5,000-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	506	288	363	292	548	311	2,308
Tree Fruits	146	92	186	300	1,816	2,587	5,125
Farms Reporting	147	80	123	113	331	159	953
Apple	76	54	123	233	1,524	2,088	4,098
Farms Reporting	109	67	105	99	316	149	845
No. of Apple Trees	20,846	12,736	38,727	71,613	528,726	737,779	1,410,427
Pear	15	4.2	12	21	128	251	431
Farms Reporting	47	24	43	36	124	83	357
Number of Pear Trees	2,111	645	2,428	4,068	41,390	68,231	118,873
Plum and Prune	11	4.1	8.4	5.2	26	30	85
Farms Reporting	57	30	48	28	87	44	294
Number of Trees	1,245	791	1,114	1,089	5,561	8,164	17,964
Cherry (Sweet)	23	12	21	20	92	123	291
Farms Reporting	86	46	66	48	150	77	473
No. of Cherry Trees	2,337	1,395	3,674	3,337	17,642	29,103	57,488
Cherry (Sour)	2.0	5.6	2.9	0.41	16	72	99
Farms Reporting	27	16	26	7	27	19	122
Number of Trees	182	1,729	429	23	4,473	22,304	29,140
Peach	14	8.9	13	19	24	20	98
Farms reporting	61	35	53	38	79	23	289
No. of Peach Trees	2,712	1,803	3,044	4,749	6,443	6,447	25,198
Apricot	3.4	2.8	4.1	2.0	6.3	3.7	24.2
Farms reporting	51	25	40	20	46	13	195
No. of Apricot Trees	649	277	290	244	702	370	2,532

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 25
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
AREA IN SPECIALTY CROPS BY FARM SALES IN HECTARES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	794	655	548	311	2,308
Nusery Products	1.7	5.9	7.1	167	182
Farms Reporting	9	5	8	11	33
Greenhouse Sq. Metres	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Farms Reporting	7	17	14	9	47

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 26
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	$250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	794	655	548	311	2,308
Cattle-Total Number	2,739	4,602	8,794	18,387	34,522
Farms Reporting	301	296	159	115	871
Cows-Total Number	903	1,628	3,031	6,866	12,428
Farms Reporting	201	201	121	98	621
Dairy Cows-Number	219	167	325	2,092	2,803
Farms Reporting	81	71	42	52	246
Beef Cows-Number	684	1,461	2,706	4,774	9,625
Farms Reporting	140	159	93	62	454
Heifers-Total Number	527	812	1,261	3,420	6,020
Farms Reporting	167	182	109	93	551
Steers-Number	350	503	1,679	2,653	5,185
Farms Reporting	138	147	78	53	416
Bulls-Number	91	128	204	320	745
Farms Reporting	67	86	68	61	282
Calves-Number	868	1,531	2,619	5,128	10,146
Farms Reporting	204	211	119	103	637
Pigs-Total Number	1,059	2,981	4,026	21,887	29,953
Farms Reporting	63	58	34	34	189
Sheep-Total Number	1,038	900	175	709	2,822
Farms Reporting	41	21	13	8	83
Horses-Number	623	805	586	780	2,794
Farms Reporting	193	174	105	76	548

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

TABLE 27
VERNON AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
POULTRY NUMBERS BY FARM SALES-1981 CENSUS

	250-2,499	$2,500-9,999	$10,000-49,999	$50,000+	TOTAL
Number of Farms	794	655	548	311	2,308
Hens/Chickens Total No.	112,384	24,438	18,971	150,007	305,800
Farms Reporting	314	236	131	70	751
Turkeys-Number	676	797	264	29	1,766
Farms Reporting	58	50	16	4	128
Geese-Number	291	296	186	130	903
Farms Reporting	42	40	19	8	109
Ducks-Number	581	488	153	151	1,375
Farms Reporting	56	45	13	10	124

Source: 1981 Census of Agriculture.

APPENDIX

TERMS USED IN THE CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

Census-farm areas

The area of census-farms reported for each subdivision represents the area of land operated by farmers whose headquarters are in the subdivision.

Crown lands, usually pasture land, which were operated under a lease agreement with federal, provincial or municipal governments, are reported as part of the farming operation of the person to whom the land was leased. However, land which was used under a per head grazing permit or fee is not included.

Large areas of timber land or other non-agricultural land held by the operator, but operated apart from the farm business, are excluded.

Use of Land

All farm land is classified according to use under two major divisions: improved and unimproved land.

Improved Land

1) Crop land - Included in this item is the total area of crop land sown for harvest in the census year. Crop land includes the total area of all field crops, plus the areas of fruits, vegetables, greenhouses, mushroom houses and nursery products. Because some crops are reported in fractions of a hectare, there may be slight differences between the sum of the individual crop areas and the total crop land.

2) Improved pasture - All land which was being used for pasture or grazing and which has had some improvements made to it in recent years is included. Improvements would include cultivation, drainage, irrigation, fertilization, seeding down or spraying.

3) Summer fallow - The enumerator was instructed to include in this item land from which no crop was to be harvested during the census year, but which was to be cultivated or worked during the year for weed control and/or for moisture conservation.

4) Other improved land - This item includes the area of barnyards, home gardens, lanes and roads on farms. It also includes areas of cultivated land that were lying idle, being neither summer-fallowed nor cropped, and areas of new breaking that had not been seeded to a crop.

Unimproved Land

The area of unimproved land consists of the total areas reported for 1) woodland and 2) other unimproved land.

1) Woodland - This includes farm woodlots, land leased for cutting, sugar bush and cut-over land with young growth which has or will have value as timber, fuelwood or Christmas trees. The area of tress planted for wind-breaks was also to be included. It excludes large timber tracts which are run as a separate business from the farm. There is some evidence that changes in the area of this item between censuses may be due to differences in interpretation. This would be particularly true in areas of bushland.

2) Other unimproved land - Areas of native pasture or hay land that had not been cultivated, bush pasture, grazing or waste land, sloughs, marsh and rocky land et cetera, are all included in this item.

TERMS USED IN LAND CAPABILITY RATINGS

Class 1	land is capable of producing the very widest range of vegetables, cereal grains, forages, berry fruits and numerous specialty crops. Soil and climatic conditions are opitimum.
Class 2	land is capable of producing a wide range of regional crops as above with some differences in variety due to minor restrictions of soils and climate.
Class 3	land is capable of producing a fairly wide range of regional crops under good management practices. Soils and/or climate limitations are somewhat restrictive.
Class 4	land is capable of a restricted range of regional crops such as hardy cereal grains, hardy vegetables, and forages. Soil and climate limitations demand special management considerations.
Class 5	land is capable of production of perennial forage crops only. Soil and/or climate restrictions severely limit the land's capability.
Class 6	land is natural rangeland. Soil and/or climate limitations preclude cultivation, but the land may be important in its natural state as grazing land.
Class 7	land has no agricultural capability whatsoever.
UNIMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory dry-farm ratings. They do not reflect either prerent land use or the state of readiness for cultivation, but only the potential capability if used for agriculture.
IMPROVED	These figures are derived from the Canada Land Inventory irrigated ratings. They reflect the capabitity for agriculture if the land unit were irrigated and/or drained. They do not indicate whether the land unit is presently either irrigated or drained.
WATER SURFACES	This category includes all non-seasonal lakes and rivers. It also includes that part of the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the Mainland , that falls within latitudes 49 N to 51 N.
OTHER	This category includes all regions of the province that were not mapped due to limited agricultural potential, national parks, and unmapped urban areas.

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